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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

EB-07 OES-06 /085 W
---------- 011617
R 261400Z AUG 76
FM AMCONSUL MILAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4886
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 1879

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OTRA, SENV, IT, US
SUBJECT: FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE - GOLFARI TRIP: REQUEST TO MEET WITH U.S. SCIENTISTS ON SEVESO

REF A) MILAN 1842 B) MILAN 1792, ET AL

1. LOMBARDY REGIONAL PRESIDENT GOLFARI'S CHEF DE CABINET, PERUCCHETTI, CALLED ON EXECUTIVE OFFICER AUGUST 26. HE DESCRIBED OBVIOUS POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES FOR GOLFARI IN LEAVING COUNTRY AT TIME OF SERIOUS PUBLIC CONCERN OVER SEVESO AND SAID GOLFARI COULD BETTER JUSTIFY TRIP TO U.S. IF MEETING COULD BE ARRANGED BETWEEN HIM AND AMERICAN EXPERTS ON SEVESO PROBLEM.

2. ASPECT OF MOST INEREST TO GOLFARI AT MOMENT IS DE-CONTAMINATION (SEE REF A FOR DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT ACTIVITY ON REGION'S PART IN THIS REGARD). PERUCCHETTI REQUESTED, THEREFORE, THAT WE ARRANGED MEETING IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN GOLFARI AND SEVERAL AMERICAN SCIENTISTS EXPERT IN DIOXIN CLEAN-UP PROBLEMS. SUCH MEETING WOULD ALSO INVOLVE VICE PRESIDENT OF REGION GIORGIO GANGI IF GANGI IS ALONG ON THIS LEG OF TRIP (THERE IS CHANCE GANGI WILL RETURN TO MILAN WHEN GOLFARI JOINS GROUP IN WASHINGTON). MEETING WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, INVOLVE REST OF GROUP, SO
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IT WOULD NECESSITATE NO CHANGES FROM PRESENT DOT SCHEDULE.

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3. PERUCCHETTI SAID HE WOULD DRAW UP LIST OF SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO SERVE AS BASIS FOR GOLFARI'S DISCUSSION WITH EXPERTS AND PASS THEM TO US WHEN READY.

4. PERCUCCHETTI SAID GOLFARI AND REGION WOULD HOPE TO DRAW POLITICAL AS WELL AS SUBSTANTIVE BENEFITS FROM SUCH MEETING. THEY WOULD, ACCORDINGLY, PUBLICIZE MEETING AND RESULTS THEREOF.

5. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPLIED HE WOULD PUT PROPOSAL TO DEPARTMENT AND WAS CONFIDENT DEPARTMENT WOULD WANT TO COOPERATE. HE SAID FAVORABLE PUBLICITY WOULD BE WELCOME ALSO FOR UNITED STATES, SINCE WE--AND NATO-- HAVE BEEN VICTIM OF CONTINUED AND ERRONEOUS CHARGES IN PRESS. EXECUTIVE OFFICER SHOWED PERUCCHETTI AUGUST 26 LA REPUBBLICA ARTICLE MISREPRESENTING JULY 26 VISIT TO MILAN OF TWO U.S. ARMY OFFICERS FROM VICENZA. BUT WHAT, SAID PERUCCHETTI, CAN YOU EXPECT FROM LEFTIST PAPER LIKE REPUBBLICA? EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPLIED THAT WHAT BOTHERS US IS NOT SO MUCH BEHAVIOR OF LEFTIST PRESS, WHICH WE EXPECT, BUT FACT THAT NO ONE ISSUES DENIALS. (NOTE: GOLFARI IN FACT HAS BEEN SINGULARLY UNHELPFUL IN COMBATTING ERRONEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING U.S. AND NATO. HE HAS, FOR EXAMPLE, GENERALLY AVOIDED MENTION OF U.S. ASSISTANCE ON SEVESO (REF A). END NOTE)

6. AS FAR AS PRESENT DECONTAMINATION PROGRESS CONCERNED, PERUCCHETTI CONFIRMED REF A'S DESCRIPTION OF REGION'S PLAN AND TIME-TABLE. FOREIGN COMPANIES WHO HAVE COME FORWARD WITH DECONTAMINATION PROPOSALS WILL BEGIN THEIR WORK WITHIN DAYS ON TRIAL BASIS. THESE TRIALS WILL LAST THROUGH OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, AFTER WHICH REGION WILL SELECT WHATEVER SOLUTION(S) SEEM(S) APPLICABLE. PERUCCHETTI SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW MANY FOREIGN COMPANIES HAVE OFFERED PROPOSALS BUT GAVE IMPRESSION THAT NUMBER IS SMALL. HE MENTIONED GIVANDAN ITSELF, ANOTHER SWISS COMPANY, ONE ENGLISH FIRM, AND ONE GERMAN FIRM. HE SAID MORE PROPOSALS ARE EXPECTED.

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7. COMMENT. WE RECOMMEND MEETING BE SET UP AS GOLAFRI REQUESTS AND THAT IT INCLUDE DR. PHILIP KEARNEY. DUE TO ROME-REGION RIVALRY OR POOR COORDINATION GOLFARI DID NOT MEET KEARNEY WHEN LATTER VISITED MILAN JULY 30 - AUGUST 2. THIS IS LOSS ON GOLFARI'S PART WHICH OUGHT TO BE REMEDIED.

8. WE RECOMMEND, TOO, THAT, IF WE HOPE TO ELICIT

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FAVORABLE PUBLICITY FOR U.S. FROM MEETING PROPOSED
BY GOLFARI, SAID MEETING RECEIVE U.S. PRESS COVERAGE,
SOME OF WHICH WILL HOPEFULLY BE PLAYED BACK IN ITALY.
GOLFARI'S BEHAVIOR THUS FAR DOES NOT INSPIRE CONFIDENCE
THAT HE CAN BE RELIED UPON TO GIVE CREDIT WHERE IT
IS DUE--NOT, AT LEAST, WHEN IT IS DUE THE U.S.
ENDCOMMENT.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: DECISION ON GOLFARI'S REQUEST
AND, IF DECISION FAVORABLE, SET-UP OF MEETING ITSELF.WRIGHT

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